

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 11, 2004

MPDC TESTIFIES BEFORE CITY COUNCIL ON PURSUIT POLICY

Both Chief Ramsey and Mayor Williams oppose the proposed Pursuit Clarification Act of 2004 and believe that MPDC's existing vehicular pursuit policy reflects the best practices of law enforcement. In his testimony on June 9, before City Council, Regional Operations Command (ROC)-North Assistant Chief Winston Robinson explained that the MPDC's existing policy balances competing public safety interests by ensuring that violent felons can be pursued and apprehended without exposing the public to the tragic and irreversible consequences of high-speed pursuits for lesser offenses.

The current policy allows pursuits only when a felony against another person is suspected, and there is a need to apprehend the alleged offender to avoid an immediate threat of danger or harm to the public. The proposed Pursuit Clarification Act calls for MPDC officers to pursue any "individual operating a motor vehicle in a reckless manner." This new policy has been proposed in part, to help combat the high number of juveniles "joyriding" in stolen autos. Although these youths do pose a danger to the city, engaging in high-speed chases with these youths is not the solution.

Instead, the department has revised existing strategies and developed new initiatives to find solutions to the problem of juvenile auto theft. Additionally, the department supports Councilmember Harold Brazil's proposed legislation, which establishes criminal penalties for individuals fleeing or attempting to flee law enforcement officers.

① Read the complete testimony, including more details about the strategies and initiatives developed by the department, at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/stmts/2004/06/060904.shtml>

① Car thieves are often more willing to engage in a car chase or race with a stolen car. Follow the MPDC's "layered approach" to help reduce the risk of having your car stolen. Get details at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/autolayer.shtml>

① Traffic safety is a concern for everyone. For information on programs the department has implemented to make DC a safer place to drive, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/traffic.shtml>

① An example of a program implemented to help reduce the number of youths involved in auto theft and other crimes is the Benning Terrace Intervention and Prevention Task Force. Get more information on the BTIPTF at:

<http://www.charityadvantage.com/ercpcp/BTIPTF.asp>

MPDC FULLY MOBILIZED DURING PRESIDENT REAGAN FUNERAL EVENTS

As DC and the nation honored former President Ronald Wilson Reagan this past week, the MPDC was fully mobilized to support the various memorial events in the city while maintaining neighborhood patrols. Although many DC and federal agencies cut back their hours, the MPDC remained open and fully staffed throughout the three days of memorial ceremonies for the 40th President, who died on June 5 at age 93. Because of the unique law enforcement and public safety responsibilities of the MPDC, Chief Ramsey declared an emergency and suspended the scheduling provisions of the labor agreements with both sworn and civilian personnel, leave and days off were canceled, and all employees were required to report for work from Wednesday through Friday. Chief Ramsey took these actions to ensure that the MPDC was sufficiently staffed to maintain vigorous patrols in DC's neighborhoods and to carry out the Department's responsibilities during the President's funeral events, which included processions, motorcades and street closures. Chief Ramsey thanked and praised all the members of the MPDC for their "hard work, dedication and professionalism in helping the District and the nation honor our former President while continuing to protect our neighborhoods."

MAY CRIME STATISTICS

Citywide total crime rates dropped almost 12% from the same time last year. The Sixth District had the largest year-to-date change, with a 23% decrease in total crime. The only district to experience an increase in total crime was the Second District (+6%), with that increase registering in robberies, assaults, and thefts from auto. Most districts also experienced a significant decrease in violent crimes. This was particularly notable in the First (-24%), Fifth (-20%) and Sixth (-30%) Districts. Every police district in DC registered a decrease in crime, compared to May 2003. Total crime for May 2004 was down 19% from the same month last year. The Sixth District had close to half as many total crimes in the month of May.

BURGLARY SUSPECTS CAUGHT IN PSA 201 WITH HELP OF COMMUNITY PHONE CALLS

On Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at approximately 11:30 am, two burglaries occurred in the Chevy Chase area. In both burglaries, the suspects gained entrance to the homes to the garages, where they then stole bicycles and other items. Witnesses to these offenses called the police and gave them lookout the information the officers needed to identify the suspects. After a foot chase involving a minor injury to one of the MPDC officers, the suspects were captured. Thanks to the hard work of the officers and the phone calls and keen observations of the community members in the area, two burglars are off the street.

NEWS & NOTES

Chatting with the Chief. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phone calls during his monthly appearance on WHUR 96.3-FM Tuesday, June 15, from 6:40-7 pm.

Wendt Center Seeks Counselors for Camp Forget-Me-Not. The Wendt Center for Loss and Healing in Washington DC is hosting its annual 3 day sleep-away bereavement camp for children, July 30, 31 and August 1, 2004. Camp Forget-Me-Not offers children from the metro Washington, DC area who have experienced a loss due to death the opportunity to enter a safe space—away from their everyday lives—to gently explore the normal process of grief. The organization is in great need of more counselors, with a particular need for black men. Get more information on Camp Forget-Me-Not at: <http://www.wendtcenter.org/>

Civilian Job Vacancies. The MPDC is currently seeking qualified applicants for the positions of Uniform Crime Reporter and Bilingual Police Communications Operator. For details, click on: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/civilian.shtm>

- ① Get the complete crime statistics for the month of May at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtm
- ① Want to get crime reports emailed to you on a regular basis? Sign up with [crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) and click on Washington, DC for regular updates:
<http://www.crimereports.com>
- ① To read the complete PSA 201 success story, go to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/2nd/ss_psa201_0406.shtm
- ① Read success stories from all seven districts at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/success.shtm>
- ① Make the right call. Learn about the police non-emergency and emergency numbers so you will know when to call 311 and when to use 911. Get a detailed explanation of the emergency and non-emergency numbers, along with important hotlines, at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/phone.shtm>

DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 6/11/04)

- 2004: 84
- 2003: 102
- % Change: -22.9%
- Closure Rate: 53.5% (84 closures)

Adult Arrests (week end. 6/5/04)

- Total: 918
- Drugs: 128
- Weapons: 22
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 22
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 40

Firearm Recoveries (as of 6/8/04)

- June: 54
- 2004 Total: 921

Traffic Fatalities (as of 6/11/04)

- 2004: 25
- 2003: 28
- % Change: -10.7%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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